

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001300030003-8  
JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EYES ONLY

TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE
		X	

PRECEDENCE

ACTION IMMEDIATE

INFO IMMEDIATE

DTG

FROM: OSD

TO: CINCPAC ADM MCCAIN

INFO: AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE AMB GODLEY  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMB UNGER  
COMUSMACV GEN ABRAMS  
FROM SECRETARY LAIRD

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EYES ONLY OSD 03394 APR 72

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

SEC DEF CABLES  
(1)

277 1 & 4

TEXT ATTACHED

OSD Review Completed. Declassified and  
Released as REDACTED

DATE	TIME
10	1745
MONTH	YEAR
APR	1972
PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
1	3

TYPED NAME AND TITLE

PHONE

RELEASE

SIGNATURE

TYPED (for stamped NAME AND TITLE

RICHARD C. CRIFFIN, MAJOR, USAF

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS

OP-1

~~TOP SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

April 10, 1972

CINCPAC

MESSAGE FOR AMBASSADOR GODLEY  
AMBASSADOR UNGER*Info: Am Embassy, Vientiane*  
SUBJECT: US Air Support in Northern Laos

I have seen a number of messages during the past few days concerning US air operations in Northern Laos. Some of the messages allude to lower, or non-existent, recent US air support in Northern Laos. Those messages disturb me. They bother me for a number of reasons, but mainly because they may be misconstrued and permitted to imply either (a) a lack of interest in Northern Laos or (b) a mis-application of air in other areas of Southeast Asia. I believe neither of those points can be supported. It seems to me it is incumbent on all of us who represent US interests to convey accurately the remarkable record which has been made, and which continues to be made, by US air. That is all the more important in view of the points you have made about the psychological and political impact of US air support. Our friends' understanding of the US record may depend in no small way on our making the record known.

The record has many facets. In brief, I believe the following points are especially noteworthy:

- a. US forces conducted Air Operations in sortie terms in Jan-Mar 1972 as follows:

	<u>Tac</u>	<u>Gunship</u>	<u>B-52</u>
Jan	1,278	164	188
Feb	1,077	146	111
Mar	1,170	162	324

~~TOP SECRET~~~~SENSITIVE~~

EYES ONLY

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- b. The cumulative tonnage represented by the three-month effort shown above was in excess of 25,000 tons -- a massive effort in a concentrated area by any measure.
- c. During the 11 day period from 30 Mar to 9 April the following sortie efforts were conducted by US air

Tac Air 151

Gunship 56

B-52 24

- d. The eleven-day effort represented above allowed US forces to expend more than 1,000 tons of air ordnance. That, too, in a concentrated area represents no small contribution.

In summary, the record shows that the US air effort in North Laos over the past three months has been massive. The record also shows that over the past eleven days it has been impressive and effective, if not as consistent in major proportions. I believe we should make this record known in the most direct way possible to the Thai and Royal Laotian leadership.

Melvin R. Laird

SSC note:

Deliver immediately

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EYES ONLY

VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS STAFF

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP80R0001300030003-8

DATE: 11 April 1972

TO: The Director

FROM: GACarver, Jr.

SUBJECT: Laird on Laos Air Support

REMARKS:

Attached is the text of a message Secretary Laird has sent to Ambassadors Godley and Unger (info to CINCPAC -- the technical addressee because of military protocol -- and Abrams). As we all know, this is one of Laird's tenderer nerves. I am not sure whether the attached is my copy of yours sent via me (in any event, I have another from Pursley). I will get copies to Cord, Bill Nelson and [redacted] if you have not already done so.

[redacted]

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

*Handwritten:* GAC, I have not seen this cable before. Please distribute as appropriate.

*Handwritten:* Lao Air Support

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